PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE XXXIX.

INDIA AND HER PART IN THE WAR.

THE THREE BATTLES.

THE barbarous *blitz* over BELGRADE which took place on Sunday last when the city was at church, and the machine-gunning of children and women as they came upon the streets to escape from their burning houses, is an awful reminder that the horrors of war are not yet over. The Battle of the Balkans which has thus been inaugurated with hell-fires brings us to the third stage of the war. Already we have had the Battle of FRANCE, which, after a prelude of treachery and frightfulness in FLANDERS, ended in the collapse of that great country. This was followed by the Battle of BRITAIN—the aerial *blitz* which, thanks to the magnificent resistance of the R. A. F. has frustrated the Nazi efforts. There have been battles also on the sea—of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. But the latest villainy committed in BELGRADE in the newest fashion marks the third definite phase of the conflict, and is a timely warning of new darkening horizons around us.

OUR DUTY.

We are therefore living in most momentous days pregnant with great possibilities for the future. What is the duty of India at this juncture? There can be only one answer to that question. Help Britain win the war and help yourself. There can be no saner counsel.

SATYAGRAHA.

Yet politicians there are who belong to a particular school of thought and who pose as the mouthpiece of the 'dumb millions' of INDIA, and cry from the house tops that the country is not for co-operation in the war effort! They even offer Satyagraha to spread the movement of non-co-operation. Their leader, Mahatma Ghandi, has decided that the form of the present Satyagraha movement should be individual. He is a shrewd man, and has specially chosen this particular method because he knows only too well that mass Satyagraha, if launched, would prove a miserable failure, serving only to expose the hollowness of his vaunted hold on the general masses. The masses, having entrusted the Congress Party with the administration of the country for two years and more, have got tired of them and their vain boastings. The membership rolls of the Congress reveal their sorry plight, and yet they trade on their past glory, and announce, all in the name of the masses!—that no self-respecting Indian should take any part or lot in the war effort.

CRORE DAY.

Madras celebrated its Crore Day on Monday this week with great éclat. It is a mighty achievement for the incessant and untiring labours of its great Governor, who has secured for Madras the pride of place in the whole of India. I know only too well that every pie of this vast amount is a voluntary and free gift of the people of Madras. It speaks volumes for the heart of the country. Very practically and obviously it gives the lie direct to the false claims of Congress, as will other facts which I propose to touch on later.

THE IMMORTAL SERMON.

However, let us try to find out if Congress have any sound ethical ground for their movement. They appear to advance as their principal reason that war by nature is *himsa*, and that Congressmen, sworn *ahimsites*, must eschew any sort of participation in war effort. Yet one of their most prominent leaders has written a book entitled ("கண்ணன் காட்டிய வழி"). "The message of Lord Sri Krishna", and in this we find that one of the greatest messages that Sri Krishna ever delivered was the advice he gave to Arjun on the field of battle at Kurukshetra of Mahabaratha fame. When the great armies of the Pandavas and Kauravas stood facing each other ready to fight, a great doubt dawned on Arjun as to the propriety of slaughtering the host arrayed against him, merely for the sake of a crown. Lord Krishna, who happened to be Arjun's charioteer at the great battle, preached a sermon which must

command implicit obedience now as ever. The Lord there taught that when sin and immorality reign supreme in any country, it is the bounden duty of every righteous person to overthrow those who practice those vices by all means, and to help to establish truth and justice. The cause of the Pandavas said Lord Krishna, was a righteous cause and must be established, though it might cost the lives of the entire host arrayed against them. Such is the immortal sermon preached by Sri Krishna, God incarnate of our Hindu bretheren; that is his unequivocal message; and yet the author of 'Sri Krishna's message' ignores it, and must needs offer Satyagraha!

LET US DESERVE.

Yet another reason for abstention urged from many a platform is that Great Britain has denied to Indians their natural rights, and that unless and until they definitely declare when and what reforms they are going to give to India, no self-respecting Indian should help in the war effort. Is this political opportunism the Dharma of the Congress? Is it a matter of conscience that they should try and squeeze a bargain when Great Britain is in the throes of a great war, and her statesmen are engaged day and night in devising ways and means to overthrow the enemy and lay him low? If so, God save us from such a Dharma! *Responsible Government and independence are not in the gift of a nation; if we are deserving of them we shall get them whether GREAT BRITAIN wills it or not.*

HELP BRITAIN WIN THE WAR.

Let us therefore take this great opportunity and prove ourselves deserving of it. Our country is safe from the attacks of the Huns, not because of our material or military strength, and certainly not because of the effectiveness of *ahimsa*, but because Great Britain is keeping them at bay in Europe. Does not wisdom on our part demand that we should rush to the help of Great Britain as she keeps the enemy at a safe distance of thousands of miles from our hearths and homes? Should we not give her all the moral and material support that we can command, to enable her successfully to thwart the enemy, nay, crush him, even at that distance? Are we to stand aloof and give an opportunity to ruthless and satanic Hitler to defeat Great Britain in Europe (which God forbid!) and push his devastating hordes into our very midst. There is only one choice for *any* Indian, and that is to avoid the latter contingency at all costs. The only way to avoid such a calamity is to help Britain win the war by a full and free co-operation with her in all her war efforts. So help us God.

I have felt impelled to speak my mind about certain attitudes of thought in INDIA towards this war. I now turn gladly to a short sketch of what loyal INDIA has already done towards attaining the objects I have just discussed.

PRINCES AND PEOPLE.

India's war effort has been effective and generous. Out of her resources in men, money and materials she has contributed unstintingly for the great cause. As soon as war was declared Princes and Chiefs hastened to place their troops and resources at the disposal of the Crown, and to offer their personal services. Throwing their differences aside, all classes and communities solidly united in their expression of their detestation of the Nazi and their willingness to serve the great cause. From North, South, East and West men flocked and enlisted in response to the call for service.

MONETARY HELP.

No less striking is the voluntary contribution, in money to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, St. Dunstan's Fund, the Indian Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, the Lord Mayor's Fund, the All India Defence Loans and Bonds. The Princes have given of their wealth with traditional liberality. HYDERABAD's gift of a whole squadron, with a further contribution to maintain it and replace losses, is a typical instance and illustration of princely generosity.

But monetary help has not come from the rich only. Rich and poor alike have contributed, the former in thousands of Rupees, and the latter in annas from millions of voluntary subscribers. In this noble effort, Madras, as I have already said, by being the first to collect a crore leads the other provinces

THE SERVICES OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

Indian troops now guard SINGAPORE, and SUEZ, the frontier outposts of the Indian Empire. Side by side with British, Australian and other Empire Forces Indian troops have fought at SIDI BARRANI, KASSALA, GALABAT, and last but not least, at CHEREN where they distinguished themselves by their ardour and valour. In his latest speech Mr. Churchill has paid a tribute to Indian heroism. 'Foremost in all this fighting in ERITREA', he said, 'were our Indian troops who, at all points and on all occasions sustained the martial reputation of the sons of Hindustan'.

THE EXPANSION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

The Indian Army which has a peace time strength of 160,000 has been planned to be expanded to 500,000, consisting of all arms, mechanised and equipped on a modern scale. As a first step the first hundred thousand have been already trained, in spite of lack of instructors, accommodation and equipment. A Madras Battalion is being raised, broadening the basis of equipment. The first batch of officers and cadets have passed out of the training schools.

THE INDIAN AIR FORCE.

The Indian Air Force is doing valuable coastal reconnaissance service. One of the early steps taken on the declaration of war was to quadruple the strength of the Air Arm. This has now been accomplished. Indian Air Force schools are training pilots, officers, ground engineers and mechanics. Aerodromes are being enlarged and provided with flying machines of the most modern type. Steps are also being taken to build aeroplanes in India and manufacture aviation spirit and lubricating oil.

THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

The Royal Indian Navy is indefatigably carrying out her appointed task of escorting convoys and clearing Indian ports and coasts of mines. Under her protection a continuous stream of troops and supplies, has been conveyed, without any casualty, to the Middle East.

The Navy also is undergoing expansion. Mine-sweeping craft are constructed in Indian yards.

MUNITIONS.

In the all-important matter of munitions Indian Ordnance factories are working at high pressure, and are now able, after meeting INDIA's requirements, to send her surplus manufactures overseas. Out of 40,000 items listed departmentally as ordnance stores 20,000 are already manufactured in INDIA, including machine-guns, rifles, artillery up to 6 inch guns, propellants, tanks, armoured cars, saddlery, blankets and uniforms.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION.

INDIA's economic contribution consists in large quantities of food materials, oils, fat, jute, rubber, timber, hides and skins, coir, tea, manganite and mica.

THE ROGER MISSION AND THE EASTERN CONFERENCE.

The Ministry of Supply Delegation, popularly known as the Roger Mission from its distinguished Chairman, is actively engaged in research and endeavour to enlarge the sphere of INDIA's economic and industrial output for the war. The Eastern Group Conference of the Commonwealth States south and east of the SUEZ, which met in NEW DELHI in December last, discussed ways and means of co-ordinating the scattered economic efforts of the different Empire Countries, and to increase the delivery of supplies to the Imperial Forces in the Eastern Fronts. Out of their deliberations new industries have sprung up in INDIA, and existing industries have been considerably enlarged. Indian factories are now turning out machine tools, electrical cables, sulphuric acid, coal-tar, cement, rubber-tyres, soap, ground-sheets,. khaki drill and other textiles. The war has started a new industry in aluminium manufacture, and given a great impetus to the iron and steel industry.

Out of evil cometh good. The rapid industrialisation of INDIA is a bye-product of the war.

INDIA's efforts, though already considerable, have yet to be surpassed and exceeded. Much more remains. Till Nazi domination has been smashed there is no pause or rest. In the words of His Excellency, the Governor of Madras on Crore Day, let us in the coming months double and redouble our zeal, and let our thoughts and prayers, and indeed, all our efforts go to secure the Victory of Right and Freedom.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

3—4—41 to 9—4—41.

THE BATTLE OF THE BALKANS.

GERMANY has invaded GREECE and YUGO-SLAVIA. The *blitz* was launched in the early hours of the morning on Sunday, March 6th.

The attack was not unexpected. Foiled in his Battle of Britain, and driven to the necessity of helping ITALY out of her late disasters Hitler had to plan an offensive in the Balkans for a diversion and in necessity. But anxious to avoid a war on two fronts he subdued

RUMANIA and BULGARIA by overawing them and hoped to carry out a similar bloodless revolution in YUGO-SLAVIA by processes of intimidation. In this nefarious scheme, it even looked as if he had nearly succeeded when by intrigue he forced the ex-ministry of YUGO-SLAVIA to sign the Tripartite Pact at VIENNA. But nemesis was at hand. The Yugo-Slavian *Coup d'état* upset his plans. Then followed a brief interval during which he launched a campaign charging YUGO-SLAVIA with having committed imaginary 'atrocities.' This also failed, and a Nazi himself Dr. Hans Borach, German Consul-General in LJUBLJANA denied the charges and called them lies. The attempt to win over the Croats and separate them from the Serbs also fell through when Dr. Matchek, the Croat Leader himself joined the new constitution as Deputy Prime Minister. Mussolini, already beaten on the Albanian front, and afraid of a new enemy made a last minute attempt to prevent an outbreak of hostilities. But Hitler demanded unconditional surrender, while YUGO-SLAVIA insisted on maintaining her honour and integrity.

THE RUSSO—YUGO-SLAV PACT.

Meanwhile RUSSIA recognised Yugo-Slavs' new King, and signed a five-year Pact promising friendship in the event of any attack by a third party. It was, as Cordell Hull, Secretary of State for U. S. A., pointed out, an 'encouraging' attitude for RUSSIA to take at this juncture. Though it held out no promise of armed assistance, it proclaimed Soviet friendship to the victim of Nazi oppression. It was an open disavowal of Nazi designs, and as some even thought an indication that Hitler and Stalin had come to the parting of ways.

But as events have turned out, nothing could stay the hand of villainy. Even before the ink was dry on the signature to the Russo-Yugo-Slavian Pact GERMANY invaded not only YUGO-SLAVIA but also GREECE.

HITLER'S PLEA.

The reasons given for the unprovoked assaults are as barbarous in statement as they are unconvincing in reason. The British are called 'war-mongers,' and the Yugo-Slav Government, 'usurpers', 'criminals' and 'ruffians', 'in British pay.' Yugo-Slavia's offence is the general mobilisation she ordered in self-defence, and her refusal to ratify her ex-Government's assent to the Three-Power-Pact. As for GREECE, the

cause is stated to be the landing of British troops in her territory, which in fact took place only after the Germans themselves had landed their own troops in BULGARIA.

YUGO-SLAVIA and GREECE have accepted the challenge with a determination worthy of their glorious cause. Dramatically enough the news of the invasion of GREECE reached Athens on Palm Sunday when service was in progress in the Churches, with the result that the congregation mingled their prayers to the Holy Virgin with an invocation to give them strength to overthrow the second enemy even as they had overthrown the first.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN AID.

BRITAIN has promised military aid and U. S. material aid to the attacked countries. Curiously enough AMERICA'S promise coincided with the 24th anniversary of U. S.'s entry into the last war in 1917. The assurance given by the British Government to YUGO-SLAVIA is contained in a noble message which reads :—

'The savage outrage committed by GERMANY against YUGO-SLAVIA without the slightest provocation, and the valiant resistance of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes ranges the British Empire on the side of YUGO-SLAVIA.

'We welcome them as our comrades in arms. We renew our comradeship which began in the last war and led us to victory.

'The British Government assure the YUGO-SLAV government that peace will be concluded only when right has been vindicated and law and justice enthroned'.

THE LANDING OF THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Thanks to the Royal Fleet, despite the sneaky presence of the Italian Navy, and the brigandage of the *Luftwaffe*, British, Australian and New Zealand forces have been landed in strength. The Royal Air Force has been considerably augmented. General Wavell, the hero of the North and East African campaigns has been placed in supreme command. Yet these forces represent only the first instalment. There are potential reserves, especially in NORTH AFRICA, PALESTINE, and IRAQ.

HITLER'S SATELLITES.

ITALY and BULGARIA, RUMANIA and HUNGARY have joined in the fray, ITALY calls it 'Collaboration'; and BULGARIA calls herself an

'observer'. HUNGARY, offered the Yugo-Slavian province of BANAT for a bribe has marched over the dead body of Count Teleki, her Prime Minister, joined the Nazi and thanks Mussolini for his 'precious support'. Reports persist that Count Teleki committed suicide rather than take up arms against YUGO-SLAVIA.

HITLER'S DIFFICULTIES.

Hitler himself knows that the Battle of the BALKANS is going to be different from the Battle of Flanders, where he won an easy victory. The German radio itself has sounded the note of warning. The country is mountainous. Troop movements must be difficult, owing to scarcity of roads and railways. Often a way must be cut by blasting rocks. The YUGO-SLAVS are 'hardy and tough', with great military traditions' 'They will fight while they have a cartridge'. When they heard of the Nazi attack, they said, 'We, Serbs are going to war as others go to a wedding'.

On the Atlantic coast the Nazi has to defend 200 miles of coastline and the LOFOTENS are a constant reminder of the danger awaiting at any and every point. On the Continent the necessity to hold down a number of countries conquered and tyrannised has spread out and thinned his armies. RUSSIA is cold and JAPAN is hesitating. Once the British Expeditionary Force is established in the Balkans, German's Southern and South-eastern flanks would be brought within vulnerable distance, and as General Weygand once remarked 'the war may be finally decided on the plains of VIENNA.'

EVACUATION.

Taught by the experience of FLANDERS and FRANCE the 'most dramatic evacuation of history' of the civilian population consisting of a million men, women, and children has been carried out in MACEDONIA and THRACE, so that roads may not be blocked and the refugees interfere with the military operations.

THE BAPTISM OF FIRE.

The Nazi *Blitz* has been launched simultaneously on both the countries. Though BELGRADE had been declared an open town the raid started here, was repeated four times and ruthlessly lasted for two days. The casualities are several hundreds killed and 3000 injured. BELGRADE

is in ruins, cut off from the outside world, and the YUGO-SLAV Government has been removed to VRANICO and CATAK. The savagery of the mass raid stands disclosed in a message published by the YUGO-SLAV Government. It reads:—

"We inform all civilised peoples of the frightful crimes committed by the German armed force in the war imposed on us.

"BELGRADE, the capital of our country, which in good time was proclaimed an open and undefended city, was bombed by German aircraft without a declaration of war.

"On Sunday morning, while the sound of Church bells was calling the faithful to Church for divine service, a bombardment, eclipsing in horror all imagination, was launched by German planes.

"A veritable deluge of incendiary and explosive bombs turned the city into a mass of ruins and gutted homes, while all the streets of BELGRADE were covered with the bodies of children, women and old men.

"All precepts of international right and human considerations were set aside by the German planes, which destroyed most of the hospitals, churches, schools and cultural institutions of BELGRADE in broad daylight. The Royal Palace was destroyed by 30 bombs.

"The German planes even bombed isolated houses, thus killing Dr. Koulovetz, the lėader of the Slovene people and a member of the Government.

"Horrible scenes occurred during the bombardment, when the German planes machine-gunned women and children fleeing from their burning homes. Low German bombers turned houses into hecatombs."

NAZI PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

YUGO-SLAVIA has been invaded simultaneously from AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, RUMANIA and BULGARIA with the aim of cutting the Yugo-Slav army in two and preventing it from joining the Greek forces. In the Struma valley, the thrust is for SALONIKA.

THE FALL OF SALONIKA.

The latest news reports the capture of SALONIKA by the Germans; but before it fell the advance was resisted by the Greek forces with heroic valour. The enemy was decimated when he entered the fort of

PERITHODI. Fierce attacks were repulsed at the forts of RUPEL, OCITA and LEESA (LISA), and the forts of VISTIBAY and KILLKIGYA fell only after they were completely destroyed.

A SECOND THERMOPYLAE.

A stirring episode of Greek heroism is the brave stand that a body of 150 Greeks made to hold up the German advance towards SALONIKA till the main army had retired to pre-arranged positions. They formed themselves into a 'Company of Death' celebrated mass, blew up a bridge and fought till they were wiped out. Their heroism is reminiscent of Leonidas and his brave four hundred.

THE CAPTURE OF NISH AND SKOPLJE

These two places in YUGO-SLAVIA have also fallen. Under great pressure, the YUGO-SLOV army has withdrawn in Southern SERBIA, uncovering the left wing of the Greek army.

YUGO-SLAVIA'S OFFENSIVE.

YUGO-SLAVIA has raided important places in BULGARIA, RUMANIA, and HUNGARY. In RUMANIA, DORSOVA, ARAD and TIMI SOARA were attacked. The capture of the ports of FIUME and ZARA on the Adriatic, and of the Albanian town of SCUTARI by Yugo-Slavian forces is contained in unconfirmed reports and is denied by the Italians.

ITALIAN INACTIVITY.

The Italian army in ALBANIA is reported to be inactive, probably waiting for the arrival of the German forces. ITALY claims to have taken SPLIT and KOTOR—YUGO-SLAVIAN ports on the Adriatic.

BRITISH AID.

The R. A. F. has raided the German troops stationed in SOFIA and attacked enemy transport in the Struma Valley. The British army has not yet made contact with the enemy.

THE AFRICAN THEATRE.

Abyssinia—The fall of Addis Ababa.—But for the developments in the BALKANS, the great victories won by the Imperial Forces in EASTERN AFRICA would have been the major events of the week. After a successful occupation of ADOWA (the place is well-known to students of History as the scene of an Italian disastrous defeat in 1896), and after crossing the Awash River, ADDIS ABABA the capital of

ABYSSINIA was reached and occupied on Saturday, the Italian garrison having withdrawn. The Duke of AOSTA has thanked General Wavell and Cunningham for the protection accorded to the Italian civilian population in the city. The East African Campaign which with the capture of ADDIS ABABA is practically closing, is as the *Madras Mail* has stated, "one of the most remarkable campaigns known to history. It is a 'triumph' for all concerned from Generals to transport drivers and pioneers, British, Indian, South, East and West African, Sudanese, Somali Arab, and other units, together with free French allies and Abyssinian Patriots". The struggle was conducted under conditions of every variety, through desert and jungle, over great waterless plains, among steep mountains, and amid great variations of climate, without any reverse, advancing inexorably, and with speed outclassing all previous campaigns in the area.

Mussolini's East African Empire is at its last gasp but a few operations still remain to be carried out. GONDAR and DESSIE have yet to be taken and a few isolated garrisons mastered.

The fall of Debra Markos.—DEBRA MARKOS, lying about 90 miles north-west of ADDIS ABABA has been taken by the Patriot Forces and its fall completes the subjugation of the GOJJAM province.

The Capture of Massawa is an equally important event of the week. It is the largest Italian port on the East African Coast. After the capture of ASMARA, its fall was inevitable, but the Governor at the place would not surrender, evidently in order to gain time to scuttle the 40 ships in the harbour, and destroy the port installations. The retreating army had also blocked the roads. The place has now been captured.

Libya—the evacuation of Benghazi.—British forces have been withdrawn from BENGHAZI and established at TOBRUK. The evacuation, it is true, was necessitated by German pressure, and the withdrawal of part of British forces to the Greek theatre. It has also meant the loss of the valuable air-fields around BENGHAZI. But as Churchill has pointed out, in this matter military considerations alone are of supreme importance, and must in no way be complicated by 'whatever are called prestige values or considerations of public opinion.'

The Axis advance in this region is due mainly to the presence of mechanised German forces which must have reached the African coast

from VALERNO in ITALY, round SICILY into TUNISIA. By no means could the transport have reached safely and in entirety. Since the beginning of the present year 1,09,000 tons of enemy shipping, part of which was bound for TRIPOLI have been sunk in the Mediterranean.

FRENCH PERFIDY.

FRANCE pretending to have received a free gift of wheat from GERMANY, and calling the Germans 'generous' on that account, has accused BRITAIN and asked AMERICA for help, in consequence of which two ship-loads of American wheat are already on their way to FRANCE or have arrived. But it has now become clear that the German 'gift' is only the return of part of the original loot from FRANCE, and is a barter transaction.

Moreover, VICHY prevaricates in another matter also. As a matter of fact she is making life-belts, life-buoys and railway wagons for the enemy, but when questioned says that she must work to keep herself alive and that the new wagons are intended to replace the loss in the late campaign.

Again, VICHY claims to be a neutral. But she forgets she has forfeited her sovereign status and is taking orders, for every action, from GERMANY. She must supply whatever GERMANY wants, and make whatever GERMANY orders. She cannot, for this reason, expect to be exempted from the seizure of contraband, to which even neutrals have to submit.

Since October last the British Navy has intercepted and taken over 100,000 tons of French Contraband in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Marshal Pétain's Lyons broadcast of April 7 is equivocal. 'It is a matter of honour for us to do nothing against our former ally' he said This sounds fine indeed, but when he added, 'Admiral Darlan has my entire confidence', one has to suspect the trustworthiness of the protestations of regard for BRITAIN. Darlan is responsible for all the present mischief.

AMERICA.

U. S. A. has flatly rejected the Axis protests against the seizure of their ships in the American waters, on the ground that no International Law can possibly permit masters and crews of vessels which have sought refuge and hospitality in foreign waters to commit acts of sabotage endangering the ports themselves.

ITALY has been asked to recall its naval attaché in the U.S.A. as he was guilty of having incited the sabotage of Italian merchantmen in American ports. Similar action is contemplated against the German attaché.

Sir Arthur Salter, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Shipping has suggested that railways may carry the coastal traffic in U. S. A. and release coastal shipping to carry supplies to BRITIAN.

It is understood that all necessary technical steps are being taken to convoy British cargo ships in the Atlantic with the aid of the American Navy.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

The Budget which Sir. Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer presented to the House on April 7 is 'astronomical'. The expenditure for 1941–42 is estimated at £4,207 millions To meet the deficit in part, the income-tax will be raised to 10*s*. in the pound and Dr.Keyne's plan of Compulsory Savings will be imposed on the nation. 'Spend as little as possible and Lend as much as possible' is the key-note of the Budget. By lowering the taxable limit from £120 to £110 per year for income-tax two million more people will be assessed. There will be little or nothing left for pleasures and even recreation. As the Chancellor pointed out, amidst cheers, Britain has taken this step 'to leave nothing undone to achieve victory at whatever cost.'

AIR-RAIDS.

The chief places attacked during the week were BREMEN, EMDEN, BREST and KIEL.

For 17 nights in succession LONDON was raid-free. On April 8, there were wide-spread raids over BRITAIN from LONDON to SCOTLAND, and over Northern IRELAND.

SYRIA.

The present unrest in SYRIA which is widespread is partly political and partly economic. The country suffers from shortage of food. The announcement of a new constitution recognising 'independence' in 'principle' is a sop to national sentiment. The Franco-Syrian Treaty of 1936 had promised independence.

IRAQ.

As a result of *a coup d'état* Seyyid Rashid Ali has seized power, and set up a military cabinet, deposing the Regent. Though Seyyid Rashid Ali has promised to carry out his obligations under the Anglo-Iraq Treaty there is little doubt that the *coup* has been inspired by the Axis. His Majesty's Government has refused to recognise the new administration.

MATSUOKA.

Matsuoka's peregrinations are not yet over. From Rome he went back to BERLIN, and has now reached Moscow to resume his conversations with Stalin and Molotov, and no doubt, to discuss the World's New Order, the Three-Power Pact and other such 'Universal harmonies.'

INDIA.

The Presidency of Madras has won the unique distinction of being the first province to collect a Crore of Rupees for the War Fund. When celebrating the "Crore Day" on the 6th, the Governor of Madras very appropriately stated :—

> "We are celebrating, to-day, an achievement of which our Presidency may be justly proud. In the short space of nine months since the War Fund was first announced, it has grown to the splendid total of a Crore of Rupees. This gift, wherein we lead the way among the Provinces of India has come from men and women of every caste and creed throughout the Presidency, Rich and poor alike have given, freely and willingly, in propor. tion to their means.
>
> In the coming months, double and treble your zeal; let Madras continue to lead the way and send more and more planes to complete Britain's mastery of the air. Above all, let your thoughts and prayers and all your efforts be for the Victory of Freedom and Right."

R.A.F. Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Countries.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
31—3—41. (Monday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Lightning sweep across the CHANNEL and over GERMAN-occupied FRENCH ports.	No loss.	Heavily damaged.
	A German destroyer off the FRISIAN Islands.		Directly hit.
	Gun emplacements and GERMAN troops parading in the islands of AMELAND and TERSCHELLING.		Heavy casualties and parade dispersed.
	An enemy supply ship in the North sea.	2 planes.	Directly hit.
NIGHT :—			
	Ship building yards at BREMEN ...		
	Industrial centre of EMDEN ...		Fires started.
	The petrol tanks and two aerodromes in the neighbourhood of ROTTERDAM.		Set on fire.
	OLDENBURG.	1 plane.	
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy merchant ships and docks at TRIPOLI.		
	Enemy aerodromes and concentrations of transport in TRIPOLITANIA.		Aircraft on the ground and vehicles damaged.
	Enemy positions north of TECLESAN.		
	The railway station at ASMARA ...		Several fires started.
	Motor transport between DESSIE and ASSAB.		
	A depót at TANDEHO ...		
	A petrol dump north east of DESSIE.		Set on fire.
	Troops' quarters and military buildings in villages in southern ABYSSINIA.	1 plane.	Buildings burnt out.
1—4—41. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	An enemy merchant vessel off the DUTCH coast.		Sunk.
	Small Naval vessels and gun emplacements along the FRENCH and LOW COUNTRY coasts.	No loss.	Machine-gunned.

1—4—41. (Tuesday.)—*cont.*

ITALIAN AFRICA.

Date. Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
Enemy Aerodromes in TRIPOLITANIA.		Damaged.
Air support to British ground forces in ERITREA.		
Aerial fight over ASMARA ...		2 planes.
Enemy communications; defences and various kinds of transport between AWASH and ADAMA; and in many other places.	1 plane.	Heavy damage.

2—4—41. (Wednesday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY :—

Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
Enemy Aerodromes at MAPERTUIS, CAEN and HAMSTEAD.		Damaged.
Armed enemy merchant ships off the DUTCH coast.		One ship sunk. Direct hit on another ship.
A wireless station in Occupied FRANCE.	2 planes.	Building collapsed.

ITALIAN ALBANIA.

Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
Barracks, buildings and a stores department in TEPELENI. ...	No loss.	Fires started everywhere.

ITALIAN AFRICA.

Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
Enemy transport retreating from ASMARA.		Heavy loss.
Enemy encampment on the ADOWA road.		
Motor transport on the DESSIE-ASSAB road.		Machine-gunned.
Harbour at TRIPOLI ...		
Enemy motor transport at RAS LANUF.	No loss.	Many vehicles destroyed.

3—4—41. (Thursday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
Landing lights and aircraft at an enemy aerodrome in Northern FRANCE.		1 plane.
The Naval Base, Drydocks and enemy battle-cruisers sheltering at BREST.		Fires and explosions started.
Oil-storage tanks at ROTTERDAM.		Set on fire.
Docks at OSTEND	4 planes.	

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
3—4—41. (Thursday.)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN ALBANIA.		
	Military buildings in and around BERAT.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy motor transport convoys in the MERSA BREGA area (LIBYA).	...	Many vehicles damaged.
	Harbour and enemy shipping at TRIPOLI.	...	...
	Retreating Italians on the ADDIS ABABA—DESSIE road.		Heavy casualties.
	Motor transport on the DIREDAWA—ADDIS ABABA road.	...	Machine-gunned.
4—4—41. (Friday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Landing grounds, Aerodrome buildings and aircraft on the ground in Northern FRANCE and BELGIUM.	... 1 plane.	Fires and explosions started. Heavily damaged.
	Two naval auxiliaries and a number of minesweepers off the West Coast of FRANCE.	1 plane.	One auxiliary vessel sunk.
NIGHT :—			
	The Naval Base, the two GERMAN battle cruisers, stores of oil and warehouses at BREST.		Straddled with bombs. Fires started.
	Oil stores at ROTTERDAM ...		Set on fire.
	Industrial targets in the RUHR ...	1 plane.	
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy troops and motor transport concentrations in western CYRENAICA in the regions of MSUS and AGEDABIA; the road from RAS LANUF.	No loss.	6 planes shot down; many others damaged.
	TRIPOLI	...	Many fires started.

Date	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
4—4—41.	**(Friday.)**—*cont.*		
	Support to British troops in IT. EAST AFRICA.	...	...
	The METAHARA station east of ADDIS ABABA.		
	A motor transport near the river AWASH.		
	Italian fleet in the harbour at MASSAWA. (ERITREA).	...	5 destroyers sunk.
5—4—41.	**(Saturday).**		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The Aerodrome and the aircraft on the ground at ADDIS ABABA.	...	4 planes shot down; several more damaged.
	Mechanical transport west of ADAMA and South-East of ADDIS ABABA.	...	Petrol lorries blown up.
	The harbour at TRIPOLI ...	...	Explosions heard.
6—4—41.	**(Sunday).**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Two German destroyers off the North-west coast of FRANCE. **Blast furnaces of iron and steel works** at YMUIDEN (HOLLAND).		1 destroyer sunk and another damaged.
	German troops, Aerodromes, motor transport and gun emplacements in Occupied FRANCE.	3 planes.	1 plane very heavily damaged.
	NIGHT :—		
	The Naval Base at BREST ...	1 plane.	Seriously damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Italian and German transport in the region of ELAGHEILA (in CYRENAICA).		Heavy loss.
	Enemy aircraft on the ground at KOMBOLCHA.		8 planes. Many planes damaged.
	Active support to advancing troops in ERITREA.		

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
6—4—41. (Sunday)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN ALBANIA.		
	Military objectives at BERAT ...	No loss.	...
	BULGARIA.		
	The main Railway station, Marshalling yards, Road junctions, Warehouses, Motor transport, Shops and factories in SOFIA (capital of BULGARIA).		Pounded. Heavily damaged. Big fires started.
	KUSTENDIL.		
	RUMANIA.		
	DORSOVA, ARAD and **TIMISOARA**...		

Enemy Raids over BRITAIN; BRITISH and ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
1—4—41. (Tuesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	A number of points on the South and East coasts of ENGLAND.	2 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	NIGHT :—		
	A point in South-west ENGLAND ...	...	No damage.
2—4—41. (Wednesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	Very slight air activity in **a few places.**	1 plane.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	East coast of ENGLAND and SCOTLAND; East ANGLIA.	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	GREECE.		
	VOLO ...	3 planes.	No damage.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
3—4—41. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A town on the South-east coast ... **Shipping** off the South-west coast ...	3 planes.	1 plane.
NIGHT :—			
	A town in the West of ENGLAND ...	...	Slight damage and casualties few.
	A town in South WALES ...	1 plane.	
	Western coastal areas ...	...	...
	The MIDLANDS ...	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	A Royal Air Force launch off the island of MALTA.	...	...
	GREECE.		
	Aerial engagement over FLORINA ...	2 planes.	No loss.
4—4—41. (Friday).			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Slight air activity over the coastal areas.	...	...
NIGHT :—			
	West and South-west ENGLAND, THAMES ESTUARY, East ANGLIA.	3 planes.	Damage not extensive; casualties very small.
5—4—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Two areas in ENGLAND, North-east SCOTLAND.	...	Slight damage.
NIGHT :—			
	South and West ENGLAND ... The THAMES ESTUARY and East ANGLIA.	1 plane.	A few casualties and only minor damage.
6—4—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Slight air activity here and there ...	...	...
NIGHT :—			
	No air activity at all ...	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
6—4—41. (Sunday.)—*cont.*			
	GREECE.		
	Towns and villages in GREECE ...	...	Many civilians injured or killed.
	SALONIKA ...	...	...
	YUGOSLAVIA.		
	BELGRADE (capital of YUGOSLAVIA).	...	Casualties heavy. Very heavy damage.
	A troop transport train in DANUBE area.	...	...
7—4—41. (Monday).	**BRITAIN.**		
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON area, **many districts** in SCOTLAND.	...	Casualties many.
	An East ANGLIAN **town**, Western and North-western ENGLAND.	...	Heavy damage. Fires started but
	ULSTER area in Northern IRELAND.	...	quickly put out.

SIDE LIGHTS.

Cats out of the bag. The past fortnight has been rich in exposures of Nazi principle and practice.

(i) Count Telekj, the Premier of HUNGARY has shot himself rather than try to combine compliance with Nazi instructions and his own respectable ideals and sense of honour.

(ii) Would you, having got up one morning to your normal daily tasks amid your normal surroundings and possessions, be ready to abandon everything and sail away the same day on a foreign man-of-war? That is what a couple of hundred Lofoten Islanders did when the British naval force raided the Islands—just to show what *they* thought of the New Order!

(iii) Admiral Darlan was forced to make a meal of his own mealy-mouthed hypocrisy about starving FRANCE and the wickedness of our blockade, when he was faced with proofs that the so-called despatch of 100,000 tons of wheat from GERMANY for Unoccupied FRANCE, was no gift at all, but the fulfilment of a barter arrangement, a mere exchange for minerals and oil-nuts, etc., etc., which he and the men of VICHY have been smuggling for months...... "The Germans are more generous than the British" he told his French dupes. Pah! It makes one sick!

(iv) But Nazism was surely best caught out in the BALKANS. Do you remember the suave, sinister announcements made from BERLIN when Prince Paul and the then Yugoslavian ministers signed that disgraceful pact? How that YUGOSLAVIA had now accepted the New Order; how that everything was quiet in the country, thanks to the Yugoslavs having seen through the machination, of the British, and how they were now safe from the perils of war, and could count on GERMANY being a real friend to them?

And a day later! Well, it will take Hitler some time to recover from a diplomatic rebuff as dramatic and forcible as the accession of King Peter and the denunciation of the pact by the whole country, including the once rather intractable and grievance-ridden Croats. Nevertheless it is rather dreadful to think how, in these days, a few cowards, rogues and traitors in high places, CAN sign away a whole nation's freedom.

* * * * *

The Terror by night. This night-bombing is the devil's own business, but there are definite signs that our counter-measures are becoming more successful. The tremendous difficulties of detection and counter-attack have by no means been overcome, but BRITAIN is making it very much more expensive for the *Luftwaffe* than it used to be. On March 12, with their new Bristol Beaus and Boulton-Paul Defiants, the R.A.F. accounted for nine bombers, and to show that this was no fluke knocked over another thirteen on the next night. This is better than the ones and twos with which we used to have to be content—especially as our own raiders, with far greater distances to overcome, are forcing even the Germans to admit that "damage to buildings was considerable." The Huns do NOT like our new type of heavy bomb, while the frequency of the R. A. F.'s visits, the number and importance of their targets, and the accuracy of their aim is definitely putting the wind up the enemy.

* * * * *

David and Goliath. Last Good Friday 8 million Greeks took the field, metaphorically, against 45 million Italians. They are now confronted with 85 million Germans. If you wish to realize how little difference mere numbers make to a people with tradition, training and moral fibre, I recommend you to study the open letter of March 8th, from the Editor of the Greek newspaper "*Johimerini*" to Herr Hitler. (Printed elsewhere in this number.) The letter electrified a gallant public and, in the words of the "*Times*" correspondent, "all day crowds thronged Constitution Square. Only those attuned to the peculiar instantaneous atmosphere which binds the people living at the foot of the Acropolis can divine.......that all Athenians knew......that March 9 was a great day in the annals of Resurgent Hellas."

* * * * *

History of an upset When ITALY first invaded GREECE the German Legation at ATHENS did everything they could to suggest that the Italian assault was a positive outrage, which no one regretted more than the guileless German.

When the Greeks properly hammered the invaders and pushed them back into ALBANIA, Ribbentrop's department kindly offered to mediate between them. The Greeks were to have an honourable peace and their frontiers were to be guaranteed (save the word!) by Hitler—provided only that the British were made to depart from Greek territory.

As the Italian situation grows more serious, the Greeks are threatened with swift and drastic action and a powerful German army is placed within sixty miles of SALONIKA!

And what do the Greeks do? They merely invite Mr. Eden and Sir John Dill to ATHENS, adopt an editor's open letter as a creed,—and fight on! A Hindustani word expresses our feelings best—"Shabash"!!

Fifth column again. The mail has brought in a copy of a LONDON Sunday paper with a whole heavy-type column about nefarious pro-Nazi activities in the French and Portuguese possessions in INDIA. One of these is PONDICHERRY, another is MAHE. Doubtless this is stale news to the Intelligence people in SIMLA, but neither of these places is very far away from us. So keep your eyes and ears open! The W. I. B. have told you often enough of what you may look out for, and what to do if you come across it. A Pudukkottian may snaffle a Von Papen yet!

By the same token, the Japanese are at the same game, with special reference to INDIA, by radio! For instance, here are some of many statements emanating from TOKYO—dealing mainly with Anglo-Chinese relations. In *some*

there may be *grains* (with characteristic cunning) of truth, but the thing to remember is that Japanese interest in INDIA is rather sudden, and strongly reminiscent of German methods, particularly as the reports are regularly reproduced by the Trans-ocean news services.

(1) Reports of low morale of Indian troops in MALAYA, of disturbances between them and Malayan troops, and of Australian misbehaviour. (March 4, 6, and 11)

(2) Reports of panic in SINGAPORE, and desertion of Indian troops in Malaya. (February 25, 28, and March 4)

(3) Reports of Anglo-Chinese "Alliance", of Chinese troops in BURMA, the SHAN STATES and SINGAPORE. (February 28, March 1, 2 & 4)

(4) Report that "the majority of British shipping is leaving the FAR EAST". (March 4)

(5) A quotation from German news that British shipping losses in 4 months November to February amounted to 2,637,000 tons. (March 4)

You may take your pick as to which of the above are the most preposterous.

W. I. B.

It seems that the W. I. B. lecturers will have to improve if they are to impress so learned a body as the Maharaja's College. They seem to do well enough in the Town Hall and the major villages of PUDUKKOTTAI, but three dozen lectures about the war appear to have impressed the erudite Collegians so little that their Magazine makes no mention whatever of the Bureau's efforts to amuse them over nine months, in spite of yards of notices about activities extra-mural and intra-mural, curricular and extra-curricular.

Never mind, ye stalwarts of the W. I. B. Borrow a Bible and console yourselves with Matthew VII. 6.

BRITAIN SPEAKS.

Colin Coote.

GERMANS keep on telling the United States that it is no use helping us, because any help they can give will be too late and too small. I don't suppose that any of you are really taken in by this sort of stuff. The Germans are always trying to pretend that the British want other people to do their fighting for them. We have, of course, a simple answer to that crude charge—the answer of 1,000,000 British grave, where lie our dead in the last war. But if I were an American I should want to know that the people whom I was asked to help were doing all in their power to help themselves. You hear a lot about what the United States are doing and will do to help the British. I think it is about time that you should hear a little about what the British are doing to help themselves. I can't tell you all the details, because Htiler would like to hear them too, but I can tell you enough to show you that we are not just waiting idly for somebody to come to our rescue.

WE PAY.

Let me first take the measuring rod of expenditure. We are now spending, according to our Chancellor of the Exchequer £ 12,300,000 a day, about 62½ million dollars, this means about £ 4,565,000,000 a year, of which £ 4,000,000,000 are directly attributable to the war. This expenditure is equal to three quarters of the whole estimated national income in 1938, though it includes a fairly large expenditure out of capital, such as the capital we are spending to pay for purchases abroad. **From our richest men, direct taxation alone takes 17 out of every 20 shillings of income.** No person in this country with an income of over a dollar a day is exempt from direct taxation, and in spite of taxation at this level, our people last year gave or lent to the Government no less a sum than £ 1,160,000,000. It was Napoleon who called us a nation of shopkeepers, and ever since he fastened that label on us, there has been an idea abroad that the British were a mean and personally selfish race.

I ask you to study the figures which I have just given. They mean that the Britisher is so conscious of ideals outside his own pocket, that he is content to spend less than one-fifth of his income on himself. **It is only fair to him to add that every single thing which has been obtained abroad during this war has been paid for on the nail!**

WE FIGHT.

Now I pass to the question of man power, not forgetting woman power. You know that all men between the ages of 18 and 41 are liable to military

service, and that the ages groups from 19 to 36 inclusive, have been called up or registered, but you may not know the extent to which our fighting forces are composed of volunteers of all ages, and not of conscripts. The air force is, and will remain, mainly a volunteer force, and will become more, and not less so, for behind the air force, there is the Air Training Corps, open to boys from the age of 16, and giving them a grounding in the science of flying while still at school. Many large numbers, tens of thousands, of boys have joined this Corps. As for the Navy, I don't think even the Germans will say that our ships are manned by the Press Gang. And the volunteer element in the Army is enormous, for example, when the younger age groups were being called up, several hundred thousand older volunteers were accepted at the same time. Again, we have the Home Guard—an increasingly powerful force, based on a local organisation, and numbering over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million men. I wish I could bring home to you the superb spirit of all these forces. Perhaps the best way to do so is to tell you that if you were to ask any one of them what he thinks of this terrible invasion with which Hitler threatens us from day to day, he will answer with obvious sincerity that he only hopes that the Germans will try!

WE WORK.

But of course, not all our men can be fighting, or preparing to fight. Until there is another arsenal of democracy, we will have to be both the striking force and the arsenal, and therefore we have had to forbid great numbers of men to join up, in order that they may produce munitions, ships, food, and goods for export to help to pay for the goods we must import. Therefore we have had a system called Reserve Occupations. For example, a miner must not join up, unless he is under a certain age, nor an agriculturist, unless he is under another age limit, and so on throughout the industries recognised to be key industries for war. We shall gradually release numbers of these reserved men for military service. As for women, they are already coming in to help. Organised and uniformed women, are already carrying out many non-combatant duties within the services. Women are pouring into industries. Some thousands of them are already working on the land. I don't pretend that the enormously difficult task of fitting every man and woman into their war job is completed, but I can tell you two things. The first is that our war output is already considerably greater than it was at the peak of the last war. The second thing is that the statistics of unemployment are very misleading. When you read that there were nearly 700,000 unemployed last January, you may think that this figure shows a lack of organisation or of effort or of funds. If so you are wrong. Many of these so-called unemployed are changing over from one job into another, many are boys and girls who have just left

school, many more, are the people found in every country, who for one reason or another are unemployable, either in peace or in war. And you must remember that the switch over of industry from peace to war, the necessary cutting down of productions for civilian uses, the restriction of private expenditure by taxation and rationing, all these things cause a temporary dislocation, and temporary unemployment.

AND WE WIN.

If any of you still think that we are not going all out in the use of our men, our money and our machines, let me remind you of this fact. Exactly nine months ago, the wreck of the British army was being taken off the beaches of Dunkirk with the loss of stores and equipment which it had taken many months to produce. In the interval our industrial cities have sustained the worst that the German air force could do, and our merchant ships have sustained the worst that submarines, mines, surface-raiders, and bombers could do. Nevertheless, in this month of March we can look back, and see that we have downed, in battle alone, 3,150 German aircraft, and 1,000 Italian aircraft, and we have fought a victorious campaign on land, 3,000 miles from our home base, and that we have dissolved the Italian Empire in Africa. **And we can look forward and say, that we actually and sincerely hope that Hitler will try to invade us.**

BUT THERE'S A LOT TO DO YET.

That is my basis for saying that our friends in other countries will not be helping those too lazy, or too loath to help themselves. But these friends may say, "After all, they are doing so well, that they do not need help." So I must ask those who may think too highly of us, to look at the other side of the picture. **What are they asking? They are asking the British Empire, to take on the German Empire and Italy, to sustain the indifference of Russia, and the smooth hostility of Japan. They are asking us to take on at one and the same time two of the strongest armies in the world, and two of the greatest air forces in the world, and just in case that should be too easy, they are asking us to be masters of every sea in the world at the same time.** So much for their general supposition, and it is a formidable one. Then they forget, but we cannot forget, that though our position is incomparably better than it was nine months ago, we have not yet measured ourselves against the German army, nor against the full force of the German submarine flotilla, and we have only checked, not destroyed, the German airforce, that the real battle is still to come. How long it will last, nobody can tell. Whenever anybody asks me that question, I remind them, just in case they are too complacent, that the last time we were left alone to face the European despot, it took us 23 years to finish the job. So if anybody wants us to finish it quicker this time, they should not think that we will

not need the tools to finish it. This is not the first time that men have stood like a rock in defence of a great cause. There happen to be a number of Scotsmen who feel sympathy for all those who put up a great fight in the hour of desperation, when there seemed to be little strength and little hope. Do you remember the lines of Walter Scott, when he was describing one such last desperate stand?

Though charging knives like whirlwinds go,
Unbroken was the ring
The stubborn spearmen still made good
Their dark impenetrable wood
Each stepping where his comrade stood,
The instant that he fell.

Here is some more of the modern equivalent of that dark impenetrable wood. As the Prime Minister said, "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."

BRITISH AIRCRAFT HAVE FLOWN 1,250,000 MILES TO LAY MINES.

KIEL CANAL BLOCKED BY SUNKEN SHIP.

GERMANS' CURIOUS EXPLANATION.

by

Wing Commander L. V. Fraser.

British aircraft have flown 1,250,000 miles to lay mines which have sent many thousands of tons of enemy shipping to the bottom of the sea. It can be stated that well over a hundred ships, engaged in supplying the enemy, are known to have been destroyed in areas which represent less than 10 per cent of the total minefields laid by the R. A. F. and the Fleet Air Arm. Among these losses were war vessels and troopships involving heavy casualties among German forces.

There is no German harbour immune from British minelaying aircraft. Neither distance nor defences are barriers. In the Baltic so many ships have been sunk that convoys from Norway must hug the coast and choose the shortest way to Germany.

Considerable minelaying has taken place in the Kiel Canal despite the powerful and active German defences. Results take some time to show. In September, for example, certain mines were laid. Only in the end of

RELAXATION OF THE BLOCKADE.

BRITISH OR ANGLO-U. S. CONTROL OF CARGO DISTRIBUTION SUGGESTED.

PROCEDURE MAY ALSO BE APPLIED TO SPAIN.

by

(*Vernon Bartlett, in the News Chronicle.*)

WHILE we wait for important developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Foreign Office in London and the State Department in Washington are increasingly interested in developments in the western end of that sea.

There is no doubt that, by skilful use of the humanitarian argument, the Germans hope to break the British blockade, and Admiral Darlan, in his recent interview to the American Press at Vichy, made it clear that he is Hitler's agent in this matter.

Indeed, before Admiral Darlan gave the interview, in which he threatened to use the French Fleet to convoy merchant shipping, Germans and the German-controlled spokesman in Paris had announced what he was going to say.

It has been noted that every British concession in the supply of food to Unoccupied France and even to Spain has been received, not with gratitude but with an intensification of attacks on the British blockade.

Being commandeered by enemy.

There is ample evidence that the Germans had expected no relaxation of the blockade, but are now making the greatest possible use of every modification. It has, therefore, become necessary for the British Government to decide to what extent the blockade shall be made watertight.

At present valuable oils, minerals, phosphates, etc., are reaching Unoccupied France from the French Colonies, and are being commandeered at French ports by the Germans and Italians for their own use.

Shipping which carries these valuable cargoes is even allowed to pass through the straits of Gibraltar, since the British Government was unwilling to enter into a dispute with the Vichy Government.

In the main, only Transatlantic shipping has been held up.

It is now claimed by Admiral Darlan that even this shipping should be allowed to pass unhindered, and in order not to offend that section of

American opinion which is more influenced by the immediate humanitarian argument than by the necessity for rapid victory, the British Government is treating this threat very seriously.

Is Unoccupied France neutral?

The whole argument in favour of supplying food to Unoccupied France is that this area has become neutral in the present war, although many factories in this territory are compelled to work on behalf of the Germans in Occupied France, and the more food the British allow into that area the more loot from it the Germans can keep.

There is, however, increasing evidence of German infiltration in the African Colonies which are under Vichy's control. It is obvious that this infiltration should be checked if the British are to make concessions which must, anyhow, be of considerable value to the Nazis.

Control of distribution.

If the British Government is to go further, and is now to allow shipments of food-stuffs from overseas, there must obviously be strict British or Anglo-American control of the distribution of these cargoes, as also of those cargoes which are at present reaching French ports from the French Colonies.

In other words, Admiral Darlan, by seeking, on Germany's orders, to widen the breach in the blockade around Germany, may tighten this blockade as far as the Nazis themselves are concerned, but may achieve a relaxation in existing restrictions on the import of vital food-stuffs to the inhabitants of Unoccupied France.

Application to Spain.

If similar concessions, coupled with similar restrictions on distribution, are introduced in the case of food for Spain, it may become impossible for the Nazis to help to misuse the ordinary decent humanitarian desire to help innocent civilians and, at the same time, may make it clear to those civilians that Germany, not Britain, is responsible for their hardships.

In working out a compromise, which may avoid trouble between the British and French Navies, but may also lessen the quite considerable stream of supplies now reaching the Nazis through Unoccupied France, the British Government is keeping in close touch with the administration in Washington.

"AFTER TEACHING THE WORLD HOW TO LIVE, GREECE MUST NOW TEACH THE WORLD HOW TO DIE".

TEXT OF OPEN LETTER ADDRESSED TO HITLER.

"GERMANY ADVISED US NOT TO MOBILISE AND WE DID NOT".

THREAT OF INVASION. "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ARMY WITH HISTORY AND TRADITION WILL WANT TO SOIL ITSELF BY SUCH DESPICABLE ACTION".

A CABLE from the Athens correspondent of *The Times* published on March 9, contains salient points of a remarkable open letter addressed to Hitler and published in the Greek Newspaper *Johimerini* from its Proprietor M. Vlachos. This letter electrified the Greek public and the newspaper containing it passed through three extra editions, which in itself is astonishing in view of the usually limited circulations of Greek newspapers.

The letter runs :—

Your Excellency,

Greece, as you know, desired to stay out of the present war. When it started she was only just recovering from innumerable deep wounds which foreign wars and internal dissensions had left on her.........Let us forget the documents which Greece has published officially of many speeches, texts and other proofs of our stubborn wish to stay out. Let us only dwell on this that Greece, when the Italians sank the (cruiser) Helle in Tenos harbour, hid the torpedo fragments after it was found that they were Italian.

She did this because she would otherwise have been forced to declare war on the Italians, a war she did not desire to fight either alone or with allies, whether Balkan or British. She wanted this tiny corner of land to remain in peace......because her geographical position is such that she wishes to have as enemies neither Germans on land nor the British on sea.

TWO SIGNATURES.

Greece at that moment had besides her peaceful intentions additional guarantees of security in two signatures, one Italian and the other British. Yet, when Greece had tangible proof of the impending Italian attack, and was thus persuaded that one signature was valueless, she did not turn as she should have to the other but turned—Your Excellency will remember—to you.

Greece asked for your protection. The details of your answer I do not exactly know. But I know from the lips of our great leader (General Metaxas) that Germany replied by advising us not to give cause for provocation-more specifically not to mobilise. We, therefore, gave no provocation. We did not mobilise and were in fact slumbering peacefully, for the day before the Italian Minister presented his ultimatum he actually invited us to accept his hospitality.

"YOU WERE IN FLORENCE ON OCTOBER 28".

To whom then did you wish Greece to turn? The Italians had already declared war. You, we regret to say, were in Florence that very morning, October 28. Should Greece have remained alone? She had neither a fleet nor an air force nor material nor money. **She turned to the remaining signatory "to the British" and they, whose country was being burnt, who, as they said at the time, had not sufficient means for their own defence, came to our aid.**

They came, too, without demands or appeals for paper pacts. A few days later, Greek soldiers fell with the first British airmen on the front which had been opened by the Italians' barbarous assault.

What happened next, you and the whole world know. The Italians are being defeated—by us, the small, the weak. They have not been beaten up there on the front by the British, for no British soldiers have yet set foot in Albania, but because they have no ideals, no souls......But this is irrelevant. For you told us yourself you chose to remain an onlooker. "It is an Italian affair," you said. "I will not intervene unless the British Army lands in force in Salonika".

THE ITALIANS FOOLED THEM.

We might have asked you "What about Florence? On the day the Italians attacked us you met them by the Arno. Did you not then deliver Greece to them?" But we put no such questions and when some of the indiscreet sought to remind us, we used the answer "The Italians fooled them."

We wanted to believe that it was in our interest.........The Swastika fluttered outside your Legation in Athens on New Year's day. It flew at half mast when General Metaxas lay dying. Your Minister even offered our new Prime Minister his congratulations, and commercial relations were renewed between us. Once you even lodged a violent protest when an American newspaper reported that German tanks had appeared in Albania. All was well...... The British were our allies with their aeroplanes and their navy, but with nothing else......It will be enough to mention that once when a British machine was forced down in Salonika we asked that the British should not remove it themselves, for fear that the arrival of even ten British soldiers should give provocation.

WHY INVADE GREECE?

The writer describes doubts which entered Greek minds as German troops first occupied Rumania, and then prepared, with Bulgarian connivance, to occupy Bulgaria, and finally appeared on the Greek frontier. The letter continues :—

It appears—so the world was told by wireless propaganda—that the Germans want to invade Greece. We ask you, why? If operations against Greece were essential to the Axis interests from the start.........the Germans and Italians would have attacked side by side. It is clear, therefore, that the attack on Greece was not a necessity for the Axis. Why is it so now?

45 MILLIONS BEGGING FOR HELP.

To prevent the creation of a front in the Balkans against Germany? Neither Serbia nor Turkey is any reason yet for the war to spread.

It is perhaps to save the Italians in Albania. But would not the Italians finally and irrevocably be defeated the moment even one German soldier sets foot in Greece? Would not all the world shout that 45 millions, after attacking our eight millions, are now begging for the help of another 85 millions to save them?

Perhaps you will say to us : "What about the British?" We reply that we did not bring them. It is the Italians who brought them to Greece. Do you wish us to order them to go? Even so let us tell them to go. But to whom? To the living? For we can hardly despatch the dead, those who fell in our mountains, who landed wounded in Attica and here they breathed their last, to those who, while their country was burning at home, came here and fell here and found tombs here.

WILL STAND IN THRACE AS IT STOOD IN EPIRUS.

Your Excellency, there are some infamies which are not done by Greece. We can send away neither the dead nor the living. Instead, we shall stand beside them till some ray of light shines again and the storm finally passes.

And you? They always say you will try to invade Greece. We do not believe that an army with a history and tradition will want to soil itself by such despicable action.

What will your army do, Your Excellency, if, instead of divisions of infantry and artillery, Greece sent to the garrison on the frontiers a force of 20,000 wounded, legless, armless, bloody and bandaged, to welcome it?

Will there be an army to strike at such a garrison ? **A small or great free army of Greeks will stand in Thrace as it stood in Epirus. It will fight. It will die there too, In Thrace it will await the return of that runner from Berlin who came five years ago and received the light of Olympia, and has changed it into a bonfire to bring death and destruction to a country, small in size but now made great and which, after teaching the world how to live, must now teach the world how to die.**

DONOVAN'S TALKING POINTS.

Colonel Donovan, returning to New York with his mind stored with inside information after a prolonged tour in Europe and the Middle East, broke his silence on March 26 in an outspoken broadcast. Here are points made by Roosevelt's unofficial observer.

BRITAIN. " I looked with wonder at the way the people went about their daily task as if no cloud of war hung over them.........I say to you, my fellow-citizens, that **all that Mr. Churchill told you of the resolution, determination, valour and confidence of his people is true** "

AFRICA. " The British have done a superb job, a better job than they have let the world discover......... The British victory has resulted, not so much from lack of tenacity on the part of the Italians, as from **superior generalship and power of manoeuvre on the part of the British.**"

GIBRALTAR AND MALTA. " I went to Gibraltar and saw how strongly fortified is that historic rock, then east to Malta. You remember the Italian claim that Malta would fall within two weeks. **Malta, however, still endures after something like 120 bombings and is still serviceable.**"

THE GREEKS. " Except for the aid given them by the British in heavy artillery and anti-tank guns they lacked almost all the weapons required in modern warfare. Yet they went into the fight."

TURKEY. " Turkey is an ally of Britain and proud of the fact that the Turks would be the defenders, as they express it, of the gate."

THE NAZI WAR. " People still try to think of the war as one which has settled down into a contest between England and Germany. From the Nazi point of view, this isn't the way to look at it. **To Germany, England is only one of a series of obstacles which stand between her and world domination.** To Germany, each country that is overwhelmed serves two purposes. It is an acquisition in itself, and it prepares the way for the next act of expansion.

"But to all this, England is the most important obstacle. If England fails, Germany has no other fear in Europe or the Middle East, and can deal with Russia at her leisure.........

"But England is not defeated, and she is much stronger than when I last saw her in the black days of the summer of 1940 after the fall of Dunkirk.

"Each week the situation improves, but not until 1942 will England be fully armed. This year is the year of difficulties and dangers. England does not fool herself."

AMERICANS NOTICE THINGS.

From the U. S. Magazine TIME comes the following comment:

"Britain is harder pressed than ever for shipping space, yet the Moslem faithful of India set sail recently for Mecca in British ships, convoyed by the Royal Navy, paying pre-war fares for the privilege. Government subsidies will offset any possible loss to ship-owners."

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period March 24—30, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES.

A slight Axis mix-up was revealed lately when the German wireless report of Mr. Matsuoka's arrival in Berlin declared that the Japanese Foreign Minister was "again and again enthusiastically cheered by tens of thousands of people lining the route".

Berlin seemed to have forgotten that Tokyo had previously given the game away by announcing that Goebbels had "**issused an order that all Berlin citizens must participate in welcoming Mr. Matsuoka**". Berlin workmen were given a half-holiday from 2 P. M. so that they might have no excuse for being absent from the big parade.

HOW IT IS DONE.

The manner in which Berlin's radio announcers dealt on March 24 with the heavy losses sustained by the *Luftwaffe* over Malta the previous day provides a striking picture of Nazi propaganda in full blast.

At 12-30 P. M. they said : " Our Stukas were escorted by fighters, but *no enemy planes were in the air.* All the German planes returned to their base".

At 5-30 P. M. : " *British fighters which tried to intercept* our bombers were forced to turn back by *our experienced fighters*, four British machines being shot down". But this time they were discreetly silent about the number of Nazi planes which got home safely.

At 7-30 P. M. they admitted—that "six German planes failed to return", but explained this by remarking that *the escorting Axis fighters had been Italian, not German !*

In actual fact, no fewer than 14 Nazi planes were destroyed over Malta that day and at least six more were severely damaged. No R. A. F. machines were lost.

VIENNA AND THE NAZIS.

On March 26 the Berlin radio broadcast ecstatic reports of the welcome given to Hitler by the people of Vienna, when he visited that city last week to meet the unfortunate Messrs. Tsvetkovich and Cincar-Markovich, of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. According to this Berlin report, thousands of Viennese lined the streets to cheer the Fuehrer, while thousands more waited patiently for hours outside the Hotel Imperial to catch a glimpse of their beloved Leader.

Unfortunately, it was only last week that a new York *Herald Tribune* correspondent just back from Vienna was able to throw further light on the attitude of the Austrians towards their Nazi overlords. According to this American reporter, disaffection is rife among Austrian troops and civilians, and the German military authorities have had to strengthen various strategic points in Vienna to cope with possible up-risings. Prussians and other North German troops have been sent to Austria to replace the local forces, while the customary greeting among the Viennese, even soldiers, now is " Good day" and not " Heil Hitler".

There is no reason to suppose that Hitler is any more popular with the Viennese than is, for instance, Frau Goering, who not long ago was booed out of the former Imperial Box at the Vienna Burgtheater with cries of "Go back to your Hermann" and " Where did you steal that tiara ?"

GOEBBELS AND THE YUGOSLAVS.

German radio comments to this part of the world on the subject of Yogoslavia's change of Government have been discreetly guarded. At midday on Friday, Berlin contented itself with reporting that a military *coup d'état* had taken place in Belgrade, but that the consequent reconstruction of the Government "was a problem of domestic politics which did not affect the external situation of the country". By that evening, however, Berlin was busy reporting various alleged anti-German demonstrations in Belgrade, concluding with the pathetic announcement that "all the women and children of the German colony in Belgrade are in safety at the Legation". Similar reports have been broadcast from Berlin ever since.

THE CONTINENT'S REVOLT.

Before the Yugoslav *coup d'état* of course, Berlin's announcers talked themselves hoarse about the stunning defeat sustained by Britain as a result of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Tripartite Pact; in fact, the Germans exhausted their own imaginations on the subject and had to fall back on the Italian *Agencia Stefani* for this profound judgment: "Yugoslavia's action proves anew that the Continent as a whole is in revolt against Britain's intention to retain Europe as the eternal battlefield in order that she may control it the better."

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

GERMAN WARSHIPS IN THE ATLANTIC.

The Nazis, mindful of their repeated "sinkings" of the *Ark Royal* and other British ships, accused Britain on March 23 of having claimed one year ago the sinking of the German warships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, which are now reported to be in the Atlantic.

The facts are these. **Britain has never claimed the destruction of the Scharnhorst.** On April 9, 1940, H. M. S. *Renown* scored two hits on the *Scharnhorst*, off Narvik, but it was stated that the Nazi ship escaped under protection of a smoke-screen. On June 22, too, she was reported to have been torpedoed near Trondheim Fjord, but it was also mentioned that later on, while limping home escorted by German destroyers, she was attacked by R. A. F. planes. Still later she was observed at Kiel by the R. A. F. and again damaged. All these facts were clearly reported at the time.

As for the *Gneisenau*, she was reported as sunk by shore batteries in Oslo Fjord on April 9, **but doubt about the name of the vessel was admitted at the time.** The Germans stated that it was another of their warships, the *Bluecher*, that was lost, and **subsequent British references invariably recalled this.**

FARASAN ISLANDS.

On March 29 the Nazi broadcast in Hindustani spoke of the great indignation in Saudi Arabia at what it described as the British occupation of the Farasan Islands, off the Yemen coast in the Red Sea. **This report has been flatly denied by the Saudi Arabian Legation at Cairo.** The Legation contradicts in most categorical terms the reported occupation of the islands, and the story that the Saudi Arabian Government had protested to the British Legation at Jeddah in that connection.

GERMANY'S DREAD.

On March 25, the Nazi broadcast in Hindustani quoted a Brazilian paper as stating that, not being dependent on sea routes, Germany was in a better position than Britain to fight a long war. Germany has always dreaded a long war, and Dr. Goebbels' recent promise to Spanish journalists to end the war in 1941 shows that Germany's rulers still prefer a short war. Significant also is the comment of the *Breslau Nachrichten*, which (as reported from Berlin) declares that "**every factor that tends to prolong the war is in itself qualified to alter the existing superiority of training, equipment and armament—yes, even to rob the side hitherto superior, of the ability to act freely.**"

BASES AGREEMENT WITH U. S.

The Nazi broadcast of March 27 described the leasing of some British islands in the Atlantic to the U. S. A. as the auctioning of the British Empire. Britain's use of every disposable commercial asset to pay for what she has received from America has been part of a straight forward financial policy, but **Britain has not transferred her sovereignty over a single British subject in the West Indies or elsewhere.** Furthermore, it is realised that British interests, no less than those of the United States and the Empire, will be served by an arrangement under which facilities are to be given to the U. S. A. in order that the Americans may ensure what the Prime Minister descibed as "security against the unmeasured dangers of the future."

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

WAR FILMS

The War Information Bureau have great pleasure in announcing that with the sanction and kind assistance of the Darbar their Lecturers will shortly be able to take round with them a series of Film programmes illustrative of the War in its various aspects.

These programmes consist in part of actual cinematography in war zones by the 20th Century Fox Film Corporation, and partially of cognate Indian subjects photographed by the organisation set up for the purpose by the Government of India, through the Bombay Government. There are three separate pictures in each programme, and the Bureau feel sure that they will prove a welcome addition to the lectures, and to the Weekly Bulletin.

The War Fund Entertainments Committee have been good enough to present the Bureau with a Station-wagon in which to convey the projectors, screens and films to the lecture centres, but in order to facilitate the working of the new lecture-programme necessary to provide some sixty centres in the State with a fresh cinema-show once every month, we particularly request the public of Pudukkottai to:—

(*a*) note that the usual time of the lecture will be **6.00 p m.** or **6.30 p. m.** (as notified).

(*b*) **be absolutely punctual** at these lectures, since the War Information Bureau van will have to serve two centres on same evening.

Practical experience proves that at least one thousand persons can see these films with comfort, so when you hear of a Lecture announced for your village,

COME.........BUT BE PUNCTUAL.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XXXIX.

April	...12, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	13, Sunday ...	Tiruvappur ...	5.00 p. m.
		Vayalogam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kudumiamalai ...	6.30 p. m.
	14, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Konapet ...	6.30 p. m.
	15, Tuesday ...	Nachandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachilai ...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Wednesday	Rajagiri ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m
	17, Thursday ...	Panayappatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rangiam ...	6.30 p. m.
	18, Friday ...	P. Puduppatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XL.

19, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
20, Sunday ...	Nirpalani ...	6.00 p. m.
	Avoor ...	6.30 p. m.
21, Monday ...	Valramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
	Yembal ...	6.30 p. m.
22, Tuesday ...	Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilakkurichi ...	6.30 p. m.
23, Wednesday	Kottaikkadu ...	6.00 p. m.
	Karambakkudi ...	6.30 p. m.
24, Thursday ...	Kulipirai ...	6.00 p. m.
	Sundaram ...	6.30 p. m.
25, Friday ...	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m
	Rasiamangalam ...	6.30 p. m.
26, Saturday ...	Ramachandrapuram ...	6.00 p. m.
	Rayavaram ...	6.30 p. m.

SUPPORT
THE STATE WAR EFFORT

BY TAKING TICKETS IN THE

GREAT WAR FUND RAFFLE

Conducted by

The State War Fund Entertainments Committee, with the authority and under the auspices of the Darbar

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CLOSING DATE 15-6-41 • DRAW ON 23-6-41

BIG MONEY FOR LUCKY WINNERS
ON
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA'S BIRTHDAY

300 PRIZES

1st PRIZE		Rs. 7,500	
2nd PRIZE		,, 5,000	
3rd PRIZE		,, 2,500	
2	PRIZES	,, 1,000	each.
5	,,	,, 500	,,
90	,,	,, 100	,,
100	,,	,, 50	,,
100	,,	,, 15	,,

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—12-4-41.